

Washington, Dec. 20.—Warmer today; cloudy, probably rain tomorrow.

TEMPERATURE AT EACH HOUR. Table with 24 columns and 2 rows showing temperature fluctuations.

HOG ISLAND WORK DECLARED COSTLY BUT NOT CRIMINAL

Report Recommends Excess Be Demanded From Contractors

TOTAL NEAR \$61,000,000

Officials Here Express Pleasure at Findings of Federal Inquiry

Rear Admiral Bowles Plans to Retire Soon

Rear Admiral Francis T. Bowles, assistant general manager of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, after reading the press summary of the Department of Justice report on Hog Island, amounting to justification for the enormous expenditures made there, announced that he would resign as soon as the Government could conveniently release him.

Admiral Bowles, in co-operation with Rear Admiral Washington L. Capps and Major General Conant, drew up the Hog Island contract in September, 1917, and recommended that it be awarded to the American International Shipbuilding Corporation. Expansion of plans for the great shipyard, made from time to time, followed out the ideas of Admiral Bowles.

The admiral said he would retire to private life on his country estate in New England.

Officials of the American International Shipbuilding Corporation, agents of the Emergency Fleet Corporation in the construction and operation of the Hog Island shipyard, were exonerated from any criminal liability in the report on their management, compiled by the Department of Justice months ago and made public today by the Attorney General under orders from President Wilson.

Whether or not extravagance was practiced in the early operations at the island is a question to which the investigators failed to make a direct answer. The report recommends that a board of arbitration determine what part, if any, of the more than \$60,000,000, the plant cost in excess of reasonable necessity and should be demanded of the contractors by the Government.

"I am glad the report has been issued and the controversy over Hog Island ended," said Charles Piez, director general of the Emergency Fleet Corporation. "I feel that criticism of the plant should cease now, for it influences the spirit of the workmen there and adds to the costs. When men are proud of the concern by which they are employed, that pride is reflected in their work; but when they are uncertain whether it will survive attacks made upon it, accomplishment is a secondary matter with them."

"The payroll at Hog Island is about \$100,000 weekly," added Mr. Piez, "and I believe that criticism of the yard in the past has cost the Government \$20,000 a week because of its effect on the spirit of the men and, therefore, on the production of the yard.

"It shall be glad to give the closest consideration to the recommendations made by the investigators.

"The report puts the responsibility for determining whether there was extravagance produced based upon Hog Island served in the war the same purpose in a reserve capacity as did that part of our army we kept at home. Germany's military and reserve powers made it useless to fight longer, and quit.

"This should end the Hog Island controversy for all time. No matter what the yard cost, it is nevertheless a marvel of accomplishment."

"Vindication," Says Admiral Bowles "So far as charges of dishonesty and secret profits are concerned, the report is a complete vindication of the American International Shipbuilding Corporation," was the comment of Rear Admiral F. T. Bowles, assistant general manager of the fleet corporation.

In brief, the investigators report: That the facts do not justify criminal process and that no fraud or secret profits have been established.

That the probable cost of the plant will be about \$61,000,000 (including \$6,000,000 for additions by order of the Emergency Fleet Corporation), compared with an original estimate of \$27,000,000 and a revised estimate of \$21,000,000.

That no clear explanation of this discrepancy has been forthcoming.

CORONER SHOWS DEATH INCREASE UNDER SKIP-STOP

39 Killed in Three Months, Compared With 45 in Year 1916

P. R. T. MAKES ANSWER

Company Blames Inexperienced Carmen at Committee of Thirteen Hearing

Skip-Stop, "War Horror," Banned in Savannah

Attention, please, Mr. Thomas E. Mitten, president of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Corporation, and the members of the skip-stop committee of thirteen, to the following article from the Savannah, Ga., Morning News, issue of December 17:

"Along with other horrors of the war, the skip-stop system will be abolished today in Savannah. Cars of the Savannah Electric Company will stop hereafter at all corners, skipping none, and people may get on or off at will, without having to calculate in advance which block will bring them nearer home. All the blunders of the forgetful which have caused the unsympathetic to smile gleefully during the hot days of last summer and the rainy ones of the present winter will be things of the past."

There were almost as many deaths on car lines during the three months the skip-stop system has been in operation here as for the entire year of 1916.

This was brought out this afternoon in testimony by Coroner Knight before the committee of thirteen at a public meeting on the skip-stop controversy in the Mayor's office yesterday.

In his testimony the Coroner said there were fifty-four deaths due to trolley accidents in 1917, forty-five in 1916 and thirty-nine in the three months' duration of the skip-stop.

The P. R. T.'s Excuses The P. R. T., presenting its side of the case, offered these explanations of the increased accidents.

The excessive turnover of men in the transit company was cited as a total of 4504 men having been hired already this year to keep up the working strength of 3000 men. Those men lack the experience of the regular employees.

The increased number of automobiles, with many of the chauffeurs inexperienced. Many of the accidents charged against the transit company were collisions with automobiles. It was asserted that the increased number of pedestrians. Many persons, the company contended, who came to the city for war work were unfamiliar with the streets.

The meeting was well attended. Rapid Transit officials were present with publicity representatives and stenographers. Present also were Mayor Mitten, president of the P. R. T., and other city officials.

Representing the Rapid Transit Company were Thomas E. Mitten, president; H. G. Tully, vice president; F. W. Johnson, transportation agent; and C. B. Fairchild, publicity agent. Mr. Mitten said the charges against the skip-stop were not true and had been put in the papers "to make circulation."

Bishop and Provost Absent Mayor Smith was present, as well as all the members of the committee of thirteen, with the exception of Bishop Rhineland and Provost Smith, University of Pennsylvania.

The committee of thirteen was selected by Mr. Mitten. It was headed by Public Service Commissioner W. D. B. Alney. The members include Mayor Smith, James E. Lennon, president of Select Council, Dr. E. B. Glendon, president of Common Council, Ernest T. Trigg, president of the Chamber of Commerce, Judge MacNeille, Archbishop Dougherty, Bishop Rhineland, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Krauskopf, Mrs. Rudolph Blankenburg, Mrs. Henry D. Jump, Provost Smith and Mrs. J. Willis Martin.

Mr. Alney, opening the hearing, said: "The committee of thirteen was selected by Mr. Mitten. It was headed by Public Service Commissioner W. D. B. Alney. The members include Mayor Smith, James E. Lennon, president of Select Council, Dr. E. B. Glendon, president of Common Council, Ernest T. Trigg, president of the Chamber of Commerce, Judge MacNeille, Archbishop Dougherty, Bishop Rhineland, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Krauskopf, Mrs. Rudolph Blankenburg, Mrs. Henry D. Jump, Provost Smith and Mrs. J. Willis Martin."

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NEW BOCHE WAIL TO WILSON German Governor Protests Occupation of Danzig by Poles

Amsterdam, Dec. 20.—(By A. P.)—Governor von Jagow, of Posen, is reported from German sources to have sent a wireless message to President Wilson in protest against the annexation of Danzig by Polish troops.

The landing of Polish troops at Danzig began Wednesday, according to Warsaw dispatches to Paris. The Polish army, numbering about 50,000, is commanded by General Joseph Haller.

The Polish troops mentioned are those which have been serving in France. The landing at Danzig, a Baltic port of West Prussia (but until the late eighteenth century a part of Poland), is under the sixteenth clause of the armistice.

300,000 SOLDIERS DISCHARGED Demobilization Proceeding at the Rate of 150,000 Weekly

Washington, Dec. 20.—(By A. P.)—Secretary of War D. H. Hughes today announced that the rate of demobilization had now reached 150,000 a week and that the War Department was pressing its efforts to make the average daily discharges 1000 per camp.

OVER 16 BILLIONS REMAIN Sherley Says War Purpose Appropriations Will Not Be Needed

Princes and "Vons" Lead Berlin "People's League"

London, Dec. 20.—(By A. P.)—A "People's League" has been organized in Berlin, says a Central News dispatch from Copenhagen today.

The league's committee included Prince Maximilian of Baden, former German Imperial Chancellor; Hugo Haase, Independent Socialist; Count von Bernstorff, former ambassador to the United States; Mathias Erzberger, the Centrist leader; Dr. W. S. Solf, former German Foreign Minister; Prince von Hohenlohe-Schillingsfuerst, the Austrian ambassador, and Cardinal von Hartmann, Archbishop of Cologne.

21 PEACE POINTS A'REN'T LODGE'S AT ALL, HE SAYS

Republican Leader, Correcting False Report, Urges Postponement of League Scheme

Washington, Dec. 20.—(By A. P.)—Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, the Republican leader, in denying in the Senate today any responsibility for the twenty-one peace points attributed to him, advocated postponement of the formation of a League of Nations until after the Peace Conference. He said the question should be considered separately and later.

Senator Lodge spoke of the peace problems today, in advance of a prepared address that he expects to deliver tomorrow, because of an Associated Press dispatch from Paris referring to the reading by President Wilson of twenty-one points of peace said to have been presented to the Senate in a speech by the Massachusetts Senator.

The twenty-one points, Senator Lodge explained, were contained in a petition from forty-six patriotic organizations recently presented to the Senate, and these points, he said, did not represent his personal views.

"I have not outlined twenty-one points or any other number," he said. "The press dispatches do not misrepresent me, the President and do not misrepresent the P. R. T. or myself."

Y.M.C.A. WOMEN WORKERS SAIL Two Philadelphians Will Aid Canteen Service in France

Miss Lucia Osborne Bell, of 7481 Germantown avenue, sailed today from New York to do Y. M. C. A. canteen work in France.

Miss Bell for the last year has been studying the "Muller-Waile" method of teaching deaf soldiers. For three years before this she had been teacher at the Pennsylvania Institute for the Deaf at Mount Airy. Her work all her life has been along the lines of social service.

Her father, the Rev. Thomas Bell, of the Episcopal Church of Lakeland, Pa., is a member of the Y. M. C. A. of Philadelphia.

Miss Bell is a kindergarten teacher in Philadelphia, but for some time past she has been in the navy yard cafeteria at Pensacola, Fla. She has lately been in New York taking the Y. M. C. A. course at the Y. M. C. A. preparatory to the work in France.

WOMEN HURT AS CARS CRASH Three Passengers in Hospital After Bump on Chestnut St.

Three women were hurt and others slightly cut about the face and hands today when a trolley car, carrying twenty-two passengers, was struck by an east-bound car on Chestnut street. The trolley car was carrying a load of shoppers, who fled into stores when the cars came together. Both cars were crowded.

Sailors stationed at the Fourth Naval District, Twelfth and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia, were called to the scene of the accident. The injured women were taken to the Jefferson Hospital. The accident halted all traffic in the area for some time.

The Chestnut street car struck the trolley car, which was carrying a load of shoppers, who fled into stores when the cars came together. Both cars were crowded.

LIEUT. THOMSON TO WED SISTER'S FAIR COMPANION Society Man Engaged to Abigail Sykes, Minister's Daughter

Lieutenant Frank Graham Thomson, U. S. A., and Miss Abigail Sykes, Berwyn, who is companion to Miss Anne Thomson, the lieutenant's sister, are to be married.

The engagement was announced by "Creddy" Sykes, Sumner N. J. Miss Sykes's brother. The wedding probably will be at Miss Thomson's home in Philadelphia on January 10.

Miss Sykes is the daughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. Charles L. Sykes, Scotch Plains, N. J.

Lieutenant Thomson, a member of exclusive clubs, is a lieutenant with the 1st Infantry. He recently returned from the army remount station at Jacksonville, Fla.

FRANK THOMSON, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, a brother of Clark Thomson, is a member of the 1st Infantry. He is a member of the 1st Infantry. He is a member of the 1st Infantry.

SOLDIERS DOCK HERE SOON Haverford Will Bring First Lot to Port Next Month

The first soldiers returning from overseas to reach this port will arrive early in January. This was announced today by F. E. Young, manager of the International Mercantile Marine Company.

VON HINDENBURG HEADS REPORTED COUNTER-REVOLT

Notifies Berlin He Will Establish New Front Behind Neutral Zone

SOVIET FOR ASSEMBLY German Congress, by 5 to 1 Vote, Fixes January 19 for Elections

By the Associated Press Paris, Dec. 20.—Field Marshal von Hindenburg has telegraphed the Berlin Government advising it of his intention to form a new front six miles behind the neutral zone fixed by the armistice, according to a dispatch to the Journal from Zurich today. The Government has asked the field marshal for an explanation, adds the dispatch, but has not yet received a reply.

It also is announced that two regiments of the active army will be sent to Frankfurt on the Main at an early date.

The correspondent affirms that Major General Scheuch, who is reported to have resigned as Prussian minister, Field Marshal von Hindenburg and General Lequid (probably Lieutenant General Lequid, former Governor of Metz, who is in command of the active troops in Berlin), are behind a counter-revolutionary movement. He declares the existing Government is manifestly incapable of preventing the realization of their scheme.

Berlin, Dec. 20.—(By A. P.)—The congress of Soldiers and Workmen's Councils has decided that elections to the national assembly shall be held on January 19. Those opposed to the amending of a national assembly voted 100 to 100.

There are between 60,000 and 70,000 unemployed workmen in Berlin according to the Tagliche Rundschau. Of this number are metal workers. The total, the paper says, does not include strikers, the number of who varies. The walkouts generally are of short duration.

The Vossische Zeitung refers to the increasing number of soldiers engaged in begging while there is much work to be done. It complains that even the collection of garbage is almost at a standstill since war prisoners no longer do the work.

Revolutionary financing is in practice by the secretive committees of the Berlin Council of Soldiers and Workmen promises to lead to interesting revelations. Out of town delegates who are present for the congress of a council now in session, headed by Friedrich executive committee with extravagant and general inefficiency.

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PEACE PACT HINGES ON WILSON MEETING WITH LLOYD GEORGE

Anglo-Saxon Nations, Both Seeking Permanent Peace, League of Nations and Not Territory, May Agree

BRITISH CAN SWING CONFERENCE, EITHER WITH U. S. OR ENTENTE

European Allies All Seek to Gain Lands—President Can Gain Control Either by Influence Through People or Understanding With England

By CLINTON W. GILBERT Staff Correspondent of the Evening Public Ledger With the Peace Delegation in France

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Paris, Dec. 20.—The result of the Peace Conference probably will hang largely on the conferences between Premier Lloyd George and President Wilson, following Premier Wilson's social visit to England, soon to be made.

Minor British officials and publicists, headed by Lord Northcliffe, are optimistic about the prospects of close co-operation between England and America, but their confident expressions may be propaganda addressed to the British people, who are expected to give a tremendous reception to Wilson on his coming visit.

Apparently the definition of the freedom of the seas may stand in the way of co-operation. Lord Northcliffe and others believe that an agreement on the freedom of the seas is possible. The real factors that are making for united action by the two countries are that both want permanent peace, neither has territorial ambition and both seem sincerely anxious to form a league of nations.

Moreover, Wilson's big naval and maritime policy will create a situation where there must be either intense rivalry between England and America or else a combination between the two nations.

May Not Want Unifid Policy There is no doubt that England wants a joint sea policy with America. England seeks no new territory. There is a movement afoot for the attachment of German Southwest Africa to the British free states and for the linking of the German Pacific islands with Australia, but it is insisted by the British that these movements in no sense emanate from the mother country.

Each interested power is creating majorities in the disputed parts of southeast Europe in its own favor, food being given for promises of votes when self-determination of the affected population comes. It is unknown to what extent England has committed herself to the territorial schemes of her allies. She evidently has reached some understandings with them, but the basis is not known. England, however, is in a position to have her own way largely, whether working with the Continental Powers or with America, or by reconciling Continental Powers and America.

If England and America agree to act together, they will control the conference, for England's influence in Europe is dominant, and no combination of continental powers in the conference against her seems probable. The European chancelleries are greatly impressed with the popular demonstrations in President Wilson's honor. His reception greatly has exceeded that accorded to any other notable visitor arriving in France, and he is expected to have the same sort of reception in London and in Rome.

No doubt, President Wilson's ideas and personality have caught the imagination of the masses of Europe, and to a remarkable degree. Thus he has two chances to succeed in the conference: By the pressure of popular sentiment and by coming to an understanding with the British on the question of the freedom of the seas.

Five PERSONS DIE BY PLUNGE OF CAR U. S. ARMY MAY BE BACK IN A YEAR

Atlantic City, Dec. 20.—Five persons were killed early today when a large touring car skidded on frost-covered planks and plunged through the railing of the second bridge on the Meadowbrook boulevard, between this city and Pleasantville.

The victims are HERMAN STATZENBACH, proprietor of the Chelsea Cafe, Atlantic and Texas avenues; MRS. JUSTINA STATZENBACH, his wife; CASPAR BALDUS, a mansion worker, residing at 2616 Atlantic avenue; MRS. MARIE BALDUS, wife of the foregone; DANIEL McARTHUR, a munition worker, living in this city.

Relative Here Stayed James Mainard, captain of detectives, learned this morning that Mrs. Annie Statzenbach widow of William Statzenbach, a brother of the dead cafe man, is living at 2442 South Chadwick street, Philadelphia. She was informed of the tragedy by wire and is expected to take charge of the bodies and the Statzenbach property.

Coroner George Stoddard will order an inquest to clear up the details so far as possible of the tragedy.

Probably the last person who saw them alive was Joseph Trux, tender of the bridge at Deal Man's Curve.

Trux heard the big machine pass his house shortly after 2 a. m. Hardly a minute elapsed before he heard a shattering of timber and cries. Trux rushed to the bridge and found that the big motor had skidded on the frosty bridge planks, slipped its way through the timbers and plunged into a branch of Beach Thoroughfare, forty feet below.

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WILSON URGES ALLIED CHIEFS TO AID EUROPE

Relief Will Arrest Spread of Bolshevism, President Advises Entente

VISIT TO LONDON ON DECEMBER 26

Will Spend Four Days in England and Also See Belgium's Ruins

HEARS ITALY'S CLAIM Tells Orlando He Doesn't Know What Italians Should Receive

By the Associated Press Paris, Dec. 20.—President Wilson, in addition to the conference he had today with Italian statesmen, also conferred with Captain Andre Tardieu, French high commissioner to the United States, with whom he discussed relief work in France and economic questions.

Plans for extending relief to famished Europe, which President Wilson regards as the most immediately pressing question needing settlement, are rapidly maturing in such way as to secure full co-operation by the Allies. The President sometime ago indicated in a speech that something should be done promptly for relieving the liberated and neutral regions which suffered so severely from the war. He now has supplemented this by making it known to the Allies that he regards the relief measures as of extreme importance, both for the stricken populations and also as a means of holding back the wave of Bolshevism and recent sweeping westward in the train of the Bolshevist movement.

The relief plans that have matured since the arrival of Herbert C. Hoover, the food administrator, are understood to have gone before the supreme war council in London, and to have been referred to a committee upon which England, France and Italy are represented. A number of exchanges have been going on with the committee, which is gradually tending toward agreement.

May Use German Tonnage As a great deal of German tonnage is lying idle in German ports, the use of this was contemplated, the passenger ships to be employed in moving American troops homeward and the bulk of the freighters, augmented with American and Allied freight tonnage, to be devoted to relief work.

Because of President Wilson's special interest in the subject he has made it known that he considers it highly desirable that co-operation by all the Allied interests be secured at the earliest possible moment and it now is believed that the entire question will be speedily adjusted.

Shipping was among the questions discussed at the conference between Wilson and Lardieu. It is known that the French Government is eager to place large shipbuilding contracts in American yards, but the American Government, it is said, intends to keep the yards free until the Peace Conference develops fully what yards the United States may need for its navy.

An official statement probably will be given out soon, explaining the status of the censorship. Although it had been promised by President Wilson that the censorship would be lifted entirely, it develops that his promise applies only to political matter concerning the Peace Conference which does not concern France and Great Britain. The American censorship, it is declared, recognizes the need of clarification, and is asking for it.

To Receive French Official Early in the day, Mr. Wilson conferred for some time with Premier Orlando and Foreign Minister Sonnino, of Italy, who explained in detail their country's ambitions. The President has expressed warmest sympathy with Italy's aspirations, but has not committed himself fully as to his views.

After the conference, Mr. Wilson spent some time in going over material presented and comparing it with data collected by Colonel E. M. House, who spent some time in attempting to determine what, in his opinion, should be Italy's legitimate claims. Mr. Wilson frankly told Premier Orlando and Baron Sonnino that he did not know what Italy should receive, but added that he intended to support action that would be just.

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AIR HOSE BROKE \$200 PANIC Garage Proprietor Causes Arrest of Visitor From Wilmington

Leater Hudson, Wilmington, Del., was held in \$200 bail for a further hearing today by Magistrate Meekley at the Court House. Hudson was arrested at the Traffic Office Diner on complaint of Malcom Huxbaum, proprietor of a rooming house at 1000 North 10th street.

Hudson stopped at the garage after paying for a car. He was arrested after pushing up his tire, the heavy iron air hose against the tire, which caused the tire to burst.

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